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European Canadians

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European Canadians (**French**: *les Canadiens Européens*), also known as **Euro-Canadians**, are [Canadians](#) with ancestry from [Europe](#).^{[2][3][4]} They form the largest [panethnic](#) group within [Canada](#) with roughly 73 percent of the population.

European Canadians can further be classified into regional and ethnocultural subgroups. The [census in Canada](#) divides Canadians of European descent into four broad categories which, in alphabetical order, are: Eastern European Canadians, Northern European Canadians, Southern European Canadians and Western European Canadians.^[1]

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European Canadians

Total population

25,111,695

72.9% of the total Canadian population (2016 Census)^{[1][nb 1]}

Regions with significant populations

[All areas of Canada](#)
less prevalent in the [North](#)

Languages

Canadian English · **Canadian French**
Other European Languages
Historically: [Scottish Gaelic](#) · [Irish](#)

Religion

Majority:

Christianity:

[Protestantism](#) · [Roman Catholicism](#) · [Eastern Orthodoxy](#) · [Oriental Orthodoxy](#) · [Mormonism](#) · Other
[Latter Day Saints](#) · [Nondenominational and Other Christians](#)

Minority:

[Islam](#) · [Judaism](#)

Related ethnic groups

[European diaspora](#), [Europeans](#), [European Americans](#), [European Australians](#), [European New Zealanders](#), [British \(English, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish\)](#), [Irish](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Italian](#), [Dutch](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#)

Terminology [[edit](#)]

In the Canadian Census, people with origins or ancestry in [Europe](#) are all classified as part of the [European race](#).

Subgroups [[edit](#)]

There are several subgroups of European Canadians.^[5] Although approximately defined categories (due to imprecise, or ethnocultural, regionalization of the continent), the subgroups have been utilized widely in ethnic and cultural identification.^[6] This is especially relevant in diaspora, as is the case with European people in Canada.^[7] In alphabetical order, and as listed within the [census in Canada](#),^[1] some of these subgroups are:^[8]

- Eastern European Canadians**, including [Belarusian Canadians](#), [Bulgarian Canadians](#), [Czech Canadians](#), [Estonian Canadians](#), [Hungarian Canadians](#), [Latvian Canadians](#), [Lithuanian Canadians](#), [Moldovan Canadians](#), [Polish Canadians](#), [Romanian Canadians](#), [Russian Canadians](#), [Slovak Canadians](#) and [Ukrainian Canadians](#)
- Northern European Canadians**, including [British Isles](#)^[*disambiguation needed*] ([English Canadians](#), [Irish Canadians](#), [Scottish Canadians](#), [Welsh Canadians](#)), [Danish Canadians](#), [Finnish Canadians](#), [Icelandic Canadians](#), [Norwegian Canadians](#), [Swedish Canadians](#)
- Southern European Canadians**, including [Albanian Canadians](#), [Cypriot Canadians](#), [Greek Canadians](#), [Italian Canadians](#), [Maltese Canadians](#), [Portuguese Canadians](#), [Spanish Canadians](#) and [Yugoslav Canadians](#) ([Bosnian Canadians](#), [Croatian Canadians](#), [Kosovar Canadians](#), [Macedonian Canadians](#), [Montenegrin Canadians](#), [Serbian Canadians](#), [Slovenian Canadians](#)
- Western European Canadians**, including [Austrian Canadians](#), [Bavarian Canadians](#), [Belgian Canadians](#), [Dutch Canadians](#), [Flemish Canadians](#), [French Canadians](#), [Frisian Canadians](#), [German Canadians](#), [Luxembourger Canadians](#), [Swiss Canadians](#)

History [[edit](#)]



This section **needs expansion**.
You can help by [adding to it](#). (*July 2020*)

Initial settlement [[edit](#)]

The [French](#) were the first Europeans to establish a continuous presence in what is now Canada. [Hélène Desportes](#) is considered the first white child born in [New France](#). She was born circa 1620, to Pierre Desportes (born [Lisieux](#), [Normandie](#), France) and Françoise Langlois.^[9]

20th century [edit]

Hundreds of thousands of European immigrants came through [Pier 21](#) in [Halifax, Nova Scotia](#) in the 1900s.^[10]

Demographics [edit]

Beginning with the first Canadian census [in 1871](#), the European Canadian population as a percentage of the total Canadian population had a peak of 98.5 percent. Since then, the proportion of the total Canadian population has been decreasing gradually since the mid-20th century to the most recent census in 2016, however, Canadians who identify with European origins remain the largest ethnic group in Canada with 72.9 percent of the total Canadian population.^{[11][12][13]} Elements of Aboriginal, French, British and more recent immigrant customs, languages and religions have combined to form the [culture of Canada](#) and thus a [Canadian identity](#). Canada has also been strongly influenced by its linguistic, geographic and economic neighbour, the [United States](#).

In the [2016 census](#), the largest European ancestry groups originated from the British Isles (11,211,850 including 6,320,085 [English](#), 4,799,005 [Scottish](#) and 4,627,000 [Irish](#)), [French](#) (4,680,820), [German](#) (3,322,405), [Italian](#) (1,587,965) and [Ukrainian](#) (1,359,655).^[14] However, the country's largest [self-reported ethnic origin](#) is "Canadian" (accounting for 11,135,965 of the population).^[nb 2]

European Canadian population in Canada

Year	Population	% of total population
1871 ^{[13][12][15]}	3,433,315	98.5%
1881 ^{[16][15]}	4,146,900	95.9%
1901 ^{[16][15]}	5,170,522	96.0%
1911 ^{[16][15]}	7,005,583	94.4%
1921 ^{[16][15]}	8,568,584	96.0%
1931 ^{[13][15]}	10,134,313	97.7%
1941 ^{[13][12]}	11,242,868	97.8%
1951 ^{[13][12]}	13,582,574	96.8%
1961 ^{[13][12]}	17,653,864	96.8%
1966 ^{[13][12]}	N/A	96.8%
1971 ^{[13][12]}	20,763,915	96.3%
1981 ^[17]	22,402,000	93.0%
1986	N/A	N/A
1991	N/A	N/A
1996 ^[18]	24,531,635	86.0%
2001 ^{[19][20][nb 1]}	24,678,880	83.3%
2006 ^{[21][nb 1]}	25,000,150	80.0%
2011 ^{[22][nb 1]}	25,186,890	76.7%
2016 ^{[23][nb 1]}	25,111,695	72.9%

European Canadians by province and territory (2001–2016)

Province/territory	Population (2001) ^{[19][20]}	% of total ethnic population (2001)	Population (2006) ^[21]	% of total ethnic population (2006)	Population (2011) ^[22]	% of total ethnic population (2011)	Population (2016) ^[23]	% of total ethnic population (2016)
 Ontario	8,944,190	79.3%	9,041,200	75.2%	9,070,795	71.7%	8,982,180	67.8%
 Quebec	6,548,205	91.9%	6,673,120	89.7%	6,740,370	87.2%	6,750,200	84.7%
 British Columbia	2,862,405	74.0%	2,869,450	70.4%	2,911,568	67.3%	2,908,420	63.8%
 Alberta	2,455,005	83.5%	2,613,790	80.3%	2,690,955	75.4%	2,786,340	70.0%
 Manitoba	866,545	78.5%	849,025	74.9%	824,820	70.2%	800,540	64.5%
 Nova Scotia	846,030	94.3%	841,230	93.2%	825,050	91.1%	798,195	87.9%
 Saskatchewan	805,380	83.6%	778,060	81.2%	787,745	78.1%	779,665	72.8%
 New Brunswick	693,295	96.3%	688,650	95.7%	696,085	94.6%	676,785	92.6%
 Newfoundland and Labrador	485,450	95.6%	471,430	94.2%	464,540	91.6%	454,710	88.8%
 Prince Edward Island	130,860	98.1%	130,645	97.4%	130,885	95.3%	130,310	93.3%
 Yukon	20,955	73.5%	21,395	70.9%	23,595	70.8%	23,915	68.1%
 Northwest Territories	16,925	45.4%	18,150	44.2%	16,915	41.6%	16,320	39.7%
 Nunavut	3,735	14.0%	3,990	13.6%	3,820	12.1%	4,115	11.6%

 Swedish	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Swiss	2,962	0.1%	4,588	0.1%	3,865	0.1%	6,625	0.1%
 Ukrainian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Welsh	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Yugoslav	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

European Canadian population by country of origin (1921–1961)

Ethnicity ↕	Population (1921) ^[16] ↕	% of Canadian population (1921) ↕	Population (1941) ^{[24][25]} ↕	% of Canadian population (1941) ↕	Population (1951) ^{[24][25]} ↕	% of Canadian population (1951) ↕	Population (1961) ^{[24][25]} ↕	% of Canadian population (1961) ↕
 Albanian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Basque	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Belgian	20,234	0.2%	29,711	0.3%	35,148	0.3%	61,382	0.3%
 Bosnian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 British Isles (not otherwise specified)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Bulgarian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Croatian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Cypriot	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Czechoslovakian	N/A	N/A	42,912	0.4%	63,959	0.4%	73,061	0.4%
 Czech	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Danish	N/A	N/A	37,439	0.3%	42,671	0.3%	85,473	0.5%
 Dutch	117,506	1.2%	212,863	1.8%	264,267	1.9%	429,679	2.4%
 English	2,545,496	29.0%	2,968,402	25.1%	3,630,344	25.9%	4,195,175	23.0%
 Estonian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Finnish	21,494	0.2%	41,683	0.4%	43,745	0.3%	59,436	0.3%
 French	2,452,751	27.9%	3,483,038	29.5%	4,319,167	30.8%	5,540,346	30.4%
 German	294,636	3.4%	464,682	3.9%	619,995	4.4%	1,049,599	5.8%
 Greek	5,740	0.1%	11,692	0.1%	13,966	0.1%	56,475	0.3%
 Hungarian	13,181	0.1%	54,598	0.5%	60,460	0.4%	126,220	0.7%
 Icelandic	N/A	N/A	21,050	0.2%	23,307	0.2%	30,623	0.2%
 Irish	1,107,817	12.6%	1,267,702	10.7%	1,439,635	10.3%	1,753,351	9.6%
 Italian	66,769	0.8%	112,625	1.0%	152,245	1.1%	459,351	2.5%
 Kosovar	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Latvian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Lithuanian	N/A	N/A	7,789	0.1%	16,224	0.1%	27,629	0.2%
 Luxembourg Luxembourger	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Macedonian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Maltese	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Moldovan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Montenegrin	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Norwegian	N/A	N/A	100,718	0.9%	119,266	0.9%	148,681	0.8%
 Polish	53,403	0.6%	167,485	1.4%	219,845	1.6%	323,517	1.8%
 Portuguese	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Romanian	N/A	N/A	24,689	0.2%	23,601	0.2%	43,805	0.2%
 Russian	100,064	1.1%	83,708	0.7%	91,279	0.6%	119,168	0.7%
 Scottish	1,173,637	13.4%	1,403,974	11.9%	1,547,470	11.0%	1,902,302	10.4%
 Serbian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Slovak	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Slovene	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Spanish	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

 Spanish								
 Swedish	N/A	N/A	85,396	0.7%	97,780	0.7%	121,757	0.7%
 Swiss	12,837	0.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Ukrainian	N/A	N/A	305,929	2.6%	395,043	2.8%	473,337	2.6%
 Welsh	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Yugoslav	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21,214	0.2%

European Canadian population by country of origin (1991–2006)

Ethnicity ↕	Population (1991) ^[26] ↕	% of Canadian population (1991) ↕	Population (1996) ^{[27][nb 2]} ↕	% of Canadian population (1996) ↕	Population (2001) ^[28] ↕	% of Canadian population (2001) ↕	Population (2006) ^[29] ↕	% of Canadian population (2006) ↕
 Albanian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14,935	0.1%	22,395	0.1%
 Austrian	107,671	1.2%	37,715	0.3%	32,231	0.2%	106,535	0.6%
 Austrian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	147,585	0.5%	194,255	0.6%
 Basque	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,715	0.0%	4,975	0.0%
 Belgian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	129,780	0.4%	168,910	0.5%
 Bosnian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15,720	0.1%	21,045	0.1%
 British Isles (not otherwise specified)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	150,585	0.5%	403,915	1.3%
 Bulgarian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15,195	0.1%	27,255	0.1%
 Croatian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	97,050	0.3%	110,880	0.4%
 Cypriot	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,060	0.0%	3,395	0.0%
 Czechoslovakian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	33,540	0.1%	36,970	0.1%
 Czech	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	79,910	0.3%	98,090	0.3%
 Danish	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	170,780	0.6%	200,035	0.6%
 Dutch	961,600	3.4%	916,215	3.1%	923,310	3.1%	1,035,965	3.3%
 English	8,605,125	30.7%	6,832,095	23.1%	5,978,875	20.2%	6,570,015	21.0%
 Estonian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22,085	0.1%	23,930	0.1%
 Finnish	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	114,690	0.4%	131,040	0.4%
 French	8,369,210	29.9%	5,597,845	18.9%	4,668,410	15.8%	4,941,210	15.8%
 German	2,793,775	10.0%	2,757,140	9.3%	2,742,765	9.3%	3,179,425	10.2%
 Greek	191,475	0.7%	203,345	0.7%	215,105	0.7%	242,685	0.8%
 Hungarian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	267,255	0.9%	315,510	1.0%
 Icelandic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	75,090	0.3%	88,875	0.3%
 Irish	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,822,660	12.9%	4,354,155	13.9%
 Italian	1,147,780	4.1%	1,207,475	4.2%	1,270,370	4.3%	1,445,335	4.6%
 Kosovar	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,200	0.0%	1,530	0.0%
 Latvian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22,615	0.1%	27,870	0.1%
 Lithuanian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	36,485	0.1%	46,690	0.1%
 Luxembourger	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,390	0.0%	3,225	0.0%
 Macedonian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	31,265	0.1%	37,055	0.1%
 Maltese	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	33,000	0.1%	37,120	0.1%
 Moldovan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 Montenegrin	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,055	0.0%	2,370	0.0%
 Norwegian	286,240	1.0%	N/A	N/A	363,760	1.2%	432,515	1.4%
 Polish	740,720	2.6%	786,735	2.7%	817,085	2.8%	984,565	3.2%
 Portuguese	292,185	1.0%	335,110	1.1%	357,690	1.2%	410,850	1.3%
 Romanian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	131,830	0.4%	192,170	0.6%
 Russian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	337,960	1.1%	500,600	1.6%
 Scottish	4,248,365	15.2%	4,260,840	14.4%	4,157,210	14.0%	4,719,850	15.1%
 Serbian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	55,540	0.2%	72,690	0.2%

 Slovak	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50,860	0.2%	64,145	0.2%
 Slovene	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	28,910	0.1%	35,935	0.1%
 Spanish	158,915	0.6%	204,360	0.7%	213,105	0.7%	325,730	1.0%
 Swedish	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	282,760	1.0%	334,765	1.1%
 Swiss	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	110,795	0.4%	137,775	0.4%
 Ukrainian	1,054,295	3.8%	1,026,470	3.5%	1,071,060	3.6%	1,209,085	3.9%
 Welsh	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	350,365	1.2%	440,965	1.4%
 Yugoslav	21,404	0.2%	68,587	0.4%	65,505	0.2%	65,305	0.2%

European Canadian population by country of origin (2011–2016)

Ethnicity	Population (2011) ^[30]	% of Canadian population (2011)	Population (2016) ^[14]	% of Canadian population (2016)
 Albanian	28,270	0.1%	36,185	0.1%
 Austrian	197,990	0.6%	207,050	0.6%
 Basque	5,570	0.0%	6,965	0.0%
 Belgian	176,615	0.5%	186,665	0.5%
 Bosnian	22,920	0.1%	26,740	0.1%
 British Isles (not otherwise specified)	576,030	1.8%	644,695	1.9%
 Bulgarian	30,485	0.1%	34,565	0.1%
 Croatian	114,880	0.3%	133,970	0.4%
 Cypriot	4,815	0.0%	5,650	0.0%
 Czechoslovakian	40,035	0.1%	40,715	0.1%
 Czech	94,805	0.3%	104,580	0.3%
 Danish	203,080	0.6%	207,470	0.6%
 Dutch	1,067,245	3.2%	1,111,655	3.2%
 English	6,509,500	19.8%	6,320,085	18.3%
 Estonian	23,180	0.1%	24,530	0.1%
 Finnish	136,215	0.4%	143,645	0.4%
 French	5,065,690	15.4%	4,670,595	13.6%
 German	3,203,330	9.8%	3,322,405	9.6%
 Greek	252,960	0.8%	271,410	0.8%
 Hungarian	316,765	1.0%	348,085	1.0%
 Icelandic	94,205	0.3%	101,795	0.3%
 Irish	4,544,870	13.8%	4,627,000	13.4%
 Italian	1,488,425	4.5%	1,587,970	4.6%
 Kosovar	2,760	0.0%	2,865	0.0%
 Latvian	27,355	0.1%	30,725	0.1%
 Lithuanian	49,130	0.1%	59,285	0.2%
 Luxembourger	3,790	0.0%	3,915	0.0%
 Macedonian	36,985	0.1%	43,110	0.1%
 Maltese	38,780	0.1%	41,920	0.1%
 Moldovan	8,050	0.0%	14,915	0.0%
 Montenegrin	2,970	0.0%	4,160	0.0%
 Norwegian	452,705	1.4%	463,275	1.3%
 Polish	1,010,705	3.1%	1,106,585	3.2%
 Portuguese	429,850	1.3%	482,605	1.4%
 Romanian	204,625	0.6%	238,050	0.7%
 Russian	550,520	1.7%	622,445	1.8%
 Scottish	4,714,970	14.4%	4,799,005	13.9%
 Serbian	80,320	0.2%	96,530	0.3%
 Slovak	66,545	0.2%	72,285	0.2%
 Slovene	37,170	0.1%	40,470	0.1%
 Spanish	368,305	1.1%	396,460	1.2%

 Swedish	341,845	1.0%	349,645	1.0%
 Swiss	146,830	0.4%	155,120	0.5%
 Ukrainian	1,251,170	3.8%	1,359,655	3.9%
 Welsh	458,705	1.4%	474,805	1.4%
 Yugoslav	48,320	0.1%	38,480	0.1%

Language and immigration [[edit](#)]

In the **2016 census**, the largest non-official European **mother tongue** languages were **Spanish** (458,850), **German** (384,035), **Italian** (375,635) and **Portuguese** (221,540) and **Russian** (188,255).^{[31][nb 3]}

European mother tongue by language (1991–2001)

Language ↕	Population (1991) ^[32] ↕	% of non-official language mother tongue speakers in Canada (1991) ↕	% of all language mother tongue speakers in Canada (1991) ↕	Population (1996) ^[33] ↕	% of non-official language mother tongue speakers in Canada (1996) ↕	% of all language mother tongue speakers in Canada (1996) ↕	Population (2001) ^[34] ↕	% of non-official language mother tongue speakers in Canada (2001) ↕	% of all language mother tongue speakers in Canada (2001) ↕
Albanian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Belarusan	N/A	N/A	N/A	420	0.0%	0.0%	530	0.0%	0.0%
Bosnian	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bulgarian	N/A	N/A	N/A	6,330	0.1%	0.0%	9,130	0.2%	0.0%
Catalan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Croatian	N/A	N/A	N/A	50,105	1.1%	0.2%	54,880	1.1%	0.2%
Czech	N/A	N/A	N/A	24,985	0.5%	0.1%	24,795	0.5%	0.1%
Danish	N/A	N/A	N/A	20,280	0.4%	0.1%	18,230	0.4%	0.1%
Dutch	124,535	3.5%	0.5%	133,805	2.9%	0.5%	128,670	2.5%	0.4%
Estonian	N/A	N/A	N/A	10,690	0.2%	0.0%	8,720	0.2%	0.0%
Finnish	N/A	N/A	N/A	24,735	0.5%	0.1%	22,400	0.4%	0.1%
Flemish	N/A	N/A	N/A	6,980	0.2%	0.0%	6,010	0.1%	0.0%
Frisian	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,915	0.0%	0.0%	3,185	0.1%	0.0%
German	424,645	12.0%	1.6%	450,140	9.8%	1.6%	438,080	8.4%	1.5%
Greek	114,370	3.2%	0.4%	121,180	2.6%	0.4%	120,365	2.3%	0.4%
Hungarian	72,900	2.1%	0.3%	77,235	1.7%	0.3%	75,550	1.5%	0.3%
Icelandic	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,675	0.1%	0.0%	2,075	0.0%	0.0%
Italian	449,660	12.7%	1.7%	484,500	10.5%	1.7%	469,485	9.0%	1.6%
Latvian	N/A	N/A	N/A	9,635	0.2%	0.0%	8,230	0.2%	0.0%
Lithuanian	N/A	N/A	N/A	9,385	0.2%	0.0%	8,770	0.2%	0.0%
Macedonian	N/A	N/A	N/A	19,300	0.4%	0.1%	16,905	0.3%	0.1%
Maltese	N/A	N/A	N/A	7,120	0.2%	0.0%	7,375	0.1%	0.0%
Norwegian	N/A	N/A	N/A	10,235	0.2%	0.0%	8,725	0.2%	0.0%
Polish	171,975	4.9%	0.6%	213,410	4.6%	0.7%	208,370	4.0%	0.7%
Portuguese	186,995	5.3%	0.7%	211,290	4.6%	0.7%	213,815	4.1%	0.7%
Romanian	N/A	N/A	N/A	35,710	0.8%	0.1%	50,900	1.0%	0.2%
Russian	N/A	N/A	N/A	57,495	1.3%	0.2%	94,555	1.8%	0.3%
Scottish Gaelic	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,175	0.0%	0.0%	2,155	0.0%	0.0%
Serbian	N/A	N/A	N/A	28,620	0.6%	0.1%	41,175	0.8%	0.1%
Serbo-Croatian	N/A	N/A	N/A	17,940	0.4%	0.1%	26,685	0.5%	0.1%
Slovak	N/A	N/A	N/A	18,285	0.4%	0.1%	17,540	0.3%	0.1%
Slovene	N/A	N/A	N/A	14,085	0.3%	0.0%	12,800	0.2%	0.0%
Spanish ^[nb 4]	158,655	4.5%	0.6%	212,890	4.6%	0.8%	245,495	4.7%	0.8%

Swedish	N/A	N/A	N/A	9,760	0.2%	0.0%	9,070	0.2%	0.0%
Ukrainian	166,830	4.7%	0.6%	162,695	3.5%	0.6%	148,085	2.8%	0.5%
Welsh	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,670	0.0%	0.0%	1,615	0.0%	0.0%
Yiddish	N/A	N/A	N/A	21,415	0.1%	0.5%	19,290	0.4%	0.1%

European mother tongue by language (2006–2016)

Language ↕	Population (2006) ^[35] ↕	% of non- official language mother tongue speakers in Canada (2006)	% of all language mother tongue speakers in Canada (2006)	Population (2011) ^[36] ↕	% of non- official language mother tongue speakers in Canada (2011)	% of all language mother tongue speakers in Canada (2011)	Population (2016) ^[31] ↕	% of non- official language mother tongue speakers in Canada (2016)	% of all language mother tongue speakers in Canada (2016)
Albanian	N/A	N/A	N/A	23,820	0.4%	0.1%	26,890	0.4%	0.1%
Belarusan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	810	0.0%	0.0%
Bosnian	12,790	0.2%	0.0%	11,685	0.2%	0.0%	12,210	0.2%	0.0%
Bulgarian	16,790	0.3%	0.1%	19,050	0.3%	0.1%	20,025	0.3%	0.1%
Catalan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	865	0.0%	0.0%
Croatian	55,335	0.9%	0.2%	49,730	0.8%	0.2%	48,200	0.7%	0.1%
Czech	24,450	0.4%	0.1%	23,585	0.4%	0.1%	22,290	0.3%	0.1%
Danish	18,735	0.3%	0.1%	14,145	0.2%	0.0%	12,630	0.2%	0.0%
Dutch	128,905	2.1%	0.4%	110,490	1.7%	0.3%	99,020	1.4%	0.3%
Estonian	8,245	0.1%	0.0%	6,385	0.1%	0.0%	975	0.0%	0.0%
Finnish	21,030	0.3%	0.1%	17,415	0.3%	0.1%	2,790	0.0%	0.0%
Flemish	5,665	0.1%	0.0%	4,690	0.1%	0.0%	3,895	0.1%	0.0%
Frisian	2,890	0.0%	0.0%	14,935	0.1%	N/A	2,100	0.0%	0.0%
German	450,570	7.3%	1.4%	409,200	6.2%	1.2%	384,035	5.2%	1.1%
Greek	108,925	1.7%	0.3%	106,525	1.5%	0.3%	117,285	1.9%	0.4%
Hungarian	73,335	1.2%	0.2%	67,920	1.0%	0.2%	61,235	0.8%	0.2%
Icelandic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,285	0.0%	0.0%
Italian	455,040	7.4%	1.5%	407,485	6.2%	1.2%	375,635	5.1%	1.1%
Latvian	6,995	0.1%	0.0%	6,200	0.1%	0.0%	5,455	0.1%	0.0%
Lithuanian	8,335	0.1%	0.0%	7,245	0.1%	0.0%	7,075	0.1%	0.0%
Macedonian	18,440	0.3%	0.0%	17,245	0.3%	0.1%	16,775	0.2%	0.0%
Maltese	6,405	0.1%	0.0%	6,220	0.1%	0.0%	5,565	0.1%	0.0%
Norwegian	7,225	0.1%	0.0%	5,800	0.1%	0.0%	4,615	0.1%	0.0%
Polish	211,175	3.4%	0.7%	191,645	2.9%	0.6%	181,710	2.5%	0.5%
Portuguese	219,270	3.6%	0.7%	211,335	3.2%	0.6%	221,540	3.0%	0.6%
Romanian	78,500	1.3%	0.3%	90,300	1.4%	0.3%	96,665	1.3%	0.3%
Russian	133,575	2.2%	0.4%	164,330	2.5%	0.5%	188,255	2.6%	0.5%
Scottish Gaelic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,090	0.0%	0.0%
Serbian	51,665	0.8%	0.2%	56,420	0.9%	0.2%	57,350	0.8%	0.2%
Serbo-Croatian	12,510	0.2%	0.0%	10,155	0.2%	0.0%	9,555	0.1%	0.0%
Slovak	18,825	0.3%	0.1%	17,580	0.3%	0.1%	17,580	0.2%	0.1%
Slovene	13,135	0.2%	0.0%	10,775	0.2%	0.0%	9,790	0.1%	0.0%
Spanish ^[nb 4]	345,345	5.6%	1.1%	410,670	6.3%	1.2%	458,850	6.3%	1.3%
Swedish	8,220	0.1%	0.0%	7,350	0.1%	0.0%	6,840	0.1%	0.0%
Ukrainian	134,500	2.2%	0.4%	111,540	1.7%	0.3%	102,485	1.4%	0.3%
Welsh	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,075	0.0%	0.0%
Yiddish	16,295	0.3%	0.1%	15,205	0.2%	0.0%	13,555	0.2%	0.0%

European immigrant population in Canada

Year ↕	Population ↕	% of immigrants in Canada ↕	% of Canadian population ↕
1986 ^[37]	2,430,470	62.2%	9.3%
1991 ^[37]	2,364,695	54.5%	8.4%
1996 ^[37]	2,334,005	47.0%	7.9%
2001 ^[38]	2,287,535	42.0%	7.4%
2006 ^[39]	2,269,705	36.7%	7.0%
2011 ^[40]	2,226,100	30.8%	6.5%
2016 ^[41]	2,082,765	27.6%	5.7%

Culture [edit]

Main articles: [Canadian culture](#) and [Western culture](#)

The culture of the Canadians of European descent, European-Canadian culture, is the main **culture of Canada**. From their earliest presence in [North America](#), European Canadians have contributed [literature](#), [art](#), [architecture](#), [cinema](#) and [theater](#), [religion](#) and [philosophy](#), [ethics](#), [agricultural skills](#), [foods](#), [medicine](#), [science](#) and [technology](#), [fashion](#) and [clothing](#) styles, [music](#), [language](#), [business](#), [economics](#), [legal system](#), [political system](#), and social and technological innovation to [Canadian culture](#). European-Canadian culture derived its earliest influences from English, French, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish settlers and is quantitatively the largest proportion of Canadian culture. The overall Canadian culture reflects European-Canadian culture, also known as White Canadian culture. The culture has been developing since long before Canada formed a separate country. Much of Canadian culture shows influences from English culture, with later periphery influence, due to 19th-century immigration, from different regions of Europe, such as the customs of Eastern European Canadians. Colonial ties to Great Britain spread the [English language](#), legal system and other cultural attributes.



European Canadians celebrating [Canada Day](#).

Canadian flag [edit]

- Canadian flag** - In 1964, Prime Minister [Lester B. Pearson](#) formed a committee to resolve the issue, sparking a serious [debate about a flag change](#) to replace the [Union Flag](#). Out of three choices, the maple leaf design by [George Stanley](#),^[42] based on the flag of the [Royal Military College of Canada](#), was selected. The flag made its first official appearance on February 15, 1965.

Music [edit]

Another area of cultural influence are [Canadian Patriotic songs](#):

- Canadian National Anthem** - Two Canadians of French descent [Adolphe-Basile Routhier](#) wrote the lyrics and [Calixa Lavallée](#) composed the music in 1880.^{[43][44]} The English lyrics which is the official and most popular version were written in 1908 by [Scottish-Canadian Robert Stanley Weir](#).^[45]
- The Maple Leaf Forever** - is an older but *unofficial national* anthem written by Scotsman [Alexander Muir](#) in 1867.^[46] It was in consideration for official national anthem, however, as no French version was ever written, it was never popular with Francophones.^[47]



[George Stanley](#) designer of the current [Canadian flag](#).

Sport [edit]

- Ice Hockey** - British soldiers and immigrants to Canada and the United States brought their stick-and-ball games with them and played them on the ice and snow of winter. Ice hockey was first played in Canada during the early nineteenth century, based on similar sports such as [field hockey](#) that were played in Europe.^[48] The sport was originally played with a stick and ball, but in 1860 a group of English veterans from the [Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment](#) played a game in [Kingston, Ontario](#), utilising a [puck](#) for what is believed to be the first time. This match, played on the frozen harbour by the city, is sometimes considered to be the birth of modern ice hockey.^[49]



[Scottish-Canadian Robert Stanley Weir](#) wrote the lyrics to [O Canada](#).

Prime Ministers [edit]

Most of the heritage that all twenty-three [Canadian Prime Ministers](#) come from (or in some combination thereof): is [British](#) ([English](#), [Scottish](#), [Ulster Scot](#) or [Welsh](#)) ancestry. Later Canadian Prime Ministers' ancestry can often be traced to ancestors from multiple nations in [Europe](#).

1st [John A. Macdonald](#) (Scottish)
2nd [Alexander Mackenzie](#) (Scottish)
3rd [John Abbott](#) (English)
4th [John Thompson](#) (Irish)
5th [Mackenzie Bowell](#) (English)
6th [Charles Tupper](#) (English)

13th [John Diefenbaker](#) (German, Scottish)
14th [Lester B. Pearson](#) (Anglo-Irish)
15th [Pierre Trudeau](#) (French, Scottish)
16th [Joe Clark](#) (Scottish, Irish)
17th [John Turner](#) (English)
18th [Brian Mulroney](#) (Irish)

See also [edit]

- 7th **Wilfrid Laurier** (French)
- 8th **Robert Borden** (English)
- 9th **Arthur Meighen** (Scots-Irish)
- 10th **William Lyon Mackenzie King** (Scottish)
- 11th **R. B. Bennett** (English, Irish)
- 12th **Louis St. Laurent** (French, Irish)

See also [edit]

- 19th **Kim Campbell** (Scottish)
- 20th **Jean Chrétien** (French)
- 21st **Paul Martin** (Irish, French, Scottish)
- 22nd **Stephen Harper** (English, Scottish)
- 23rd **Justin Trudeau** (French, Scottish, English)

See also [edit]

- European diaspora**
- Métis people (Canada)**
- Ethnic origins of people in Canada**
- European Americans**
- Demographics of Canada**



Notes [edit]

- ¹ ^{**a**} ^{**b**} ^{**c**} ^{**d**} ^{**e**} Statistic includes all persons that did not make up part of a visible minority or an aboriginal identity.
- ² ^{**a**} ^{**b**} All citizens of Canada are classified as "Canadians" as defined by **Canada's nationality laws**. However, "Canadian" as an ethnic group has since 1996 been added to census questionnaires for possible ancestry. "Canadian" was included as an example on the English questionnaire and "Canadien" as an example on the French questionnaire. "The majority of respondents to this selection are from the eastern part of the country that was first settled. Respondents generally are visibly European (Anglophones and Francophones), however no-longer self identify with their ethnic ancestral origins. This response is attributed to a multitude or generational distance from ancestral lineage.
Source 1: Jack Jedwab (April 2008). "Our 'Cense' of Self: the 2006 Census saw 1.6 million 'Canadian'" (PDF). Association for Canadian Studies. Archived from **the original** (PDF) on October 2, 2011. Retrieved March 7, 2011.
Source 2: Don Kerr (2007). *The Changing Face of Canada: Essential Readings in Population*. Canadian Scholars' Press. pp. 313–317. ISBN 978-1-55130-322-2.
- ³ ^{**a**} English and French are not included here because although they are European originating languages, they are the two official languages of Canada and therefore may also be the mother tongue of non-European Canadians.
- ⁴ ^{**a**} ^{**b**} Not all speakers are European (ie. Mexicans and South Americans).

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- ² ^{**a**} *www.oxforddictionaries.com* Euro-Canadian definition
- ³ ^{**a**} Kappler, Maija (September 11, 2018). "Eye-Opening Show, 'First Contact,' Tackles White Canadians' Racism Toward Indigenous People". Huffington Post. "Example of White Canadian being used"
- ⁴ ^{**a**} Menzies, Charles (1994). "Stories from Home: First Nations, Land Claims, and Euro-Canadians". *American Ethnologist*. American Anthropological Association. **21** (4): 776–791. doi:10.1525/ae.1994.21.4.02a00060 . JSTOR 646839 . "Example of Euro-Canadian being used"
- ⁵ ^{**a**} ^{**A**} ^{**S**} ^{**Whiteley**} (1932). "The Peopling of the Prairie Provinces of Canada". *American Journal of Sociology* (Volume 38 ed.). University of Chicago Press . pp. 240–252. "The Prairie born constituted the largest single element in the population in 1926 and with those from other provinces comprised 62.75 per cent of the total. With respect to "origin," about one-half of those from Central, South, and **East Europe** and less than one-fourth of those from Northwest European stocks were foreign born."
- ⁶ ^{**a**} ^{**James Muir**} (2016). "Keeping Canada British: The Ku Klux Klan in 1920s Saskatchewan by James M. Pitsula (review)". *University of Toronto Quarterly* (Volume 85 ed.). University of Toronto Press. p. 541-542. "Similarly, a broad spectrum of people, from **J.S. Woodsworth** to **John Diefenbaker**, accepted as truth the imagined superiority of **British people** and northwestern Europeans over central and southern Europeans, let alone Africans, Asians, and North American indigenous people."
- ⁷ ^{**a**} ^{**David Goutor**} (2008). *Guarding the Gates: The Canadian Labour Movement and Immigration, 1872-1934*. UBC Press. ISBN 978-0774813655. "From 1903 to 1914, more than one-quarter of all immigrants came from continental Europe, with a pronounced increase in the migration of Ukrainians, Poles, Italians and other eastern and southern Europeans ... a growing proportion of eastern and southern Europeans were brought in to do the rough, unskilled work in Canada's flourishing railway,
- ²⁵ ^{**a**} ^{**b**} ^{**c**} **Statistics Canada** Distribution of the population, by ethnic group, census years 1941, 1951 and 1961
- ²⁶ ^{**a**} Government of Canada, Statistics Canada (June 1, 1993). "1991 Census of Canada: Data tables – Population by Ethnic Origin (188) and Sex (3), Showing Single and Multiple Responses (3), for Canada, Provinces, Territories and Census Metropolitan Areas, 1991 Census (20% Sample Data)" . *www12.statcan.gc.ca*. Retrieved September 20, 2019.
- ²⁷ ^{**a**} Government of Canada, Statistics Canada (February 17, 1998). "1996 Census of Canada: Data tables – Population by Ethnic Origin (188) and Sex (3), Showing Single and Multiple Responses (3), for Canada, Provinces, Territories and Census Metropolitan Areas, 1996 Census (20% Sample Data)" . *www12.statcan.gc.ca*. Archived from the original on August 12, 2019. Retrieved September 20, 2019.
- ²⁸ ^{**a**} contenu, English name of the content author / Nom en anglais de l'auteur du. "English title / Titre en anglais" . *www12.statcan.gc.ca*. Retrieved September 20, 2019.
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- ³² ^{**a**} **Population by Mother Tongue (27), Showing Age Groups (13)** , **1991 Census of Canada**
- ³³ ^{**a**} **Population by Mother Tongue (27), Showing Age Groups (13)** , **1996 Census of Canada**

8. [▲] Kevin Woogder (2017), "Whiteness and Ambiguous Canadianization: The Boy Scouts Association and the Canadian Cadet Organization", *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* (Volume 28 ed.), [Canadian Historical Association](#), p. 95–126, "Indeed, the 1969 Canadian Scout Handbook section on "Canada's National Origins," which purported to outline Canada's contemporary ethnic and racial composition, continued to emphasize the [British](#) and [French](#) as the two founding nations, while detailing the myriad different national origins of northwestern, [Eastern](#) and Southern European Canadians."

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